

Division of Adult Education Monthly Webinar

February 16, 2023



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Agenda

- DiplomaSender/HiSET update
- Assessing ESL Learners
- Assessments
- PD opportunity for ESL instructors



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DiplomaSender and HiSET scores

- DiplomaSender now accepting import of HiSET scores from PSI
 - Still some issues but many have been resolved




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Assessing ESL Learners

- Lancaster-Lebanon IU13
- The Literacy Center
- Keystone Opportunity Center
- Catholic Charities



pennsylvania


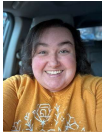

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The Funky Bunch

Josh McManness

Program Manager

Lancaster-Lebanon IU13

Jessica Barnhart

Community Education Supervisor

Lancaster-Lebanon IU13

Jenny Bair

Program Director

Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon

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Let's Get Started

Tell me about the current assessments you use for ESL placement

Do you think they are good assessments?

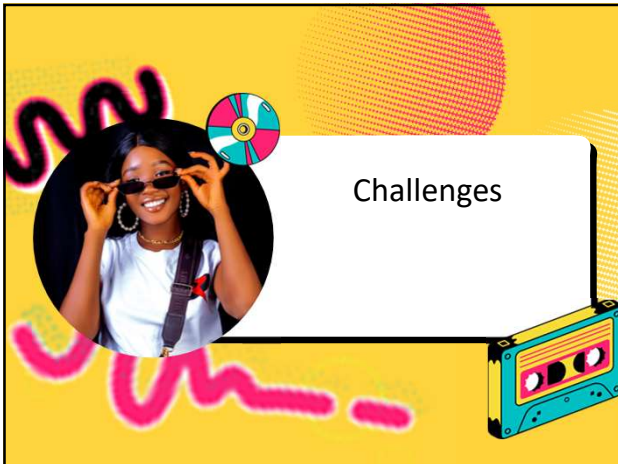
Why or why not?

Tell me more.

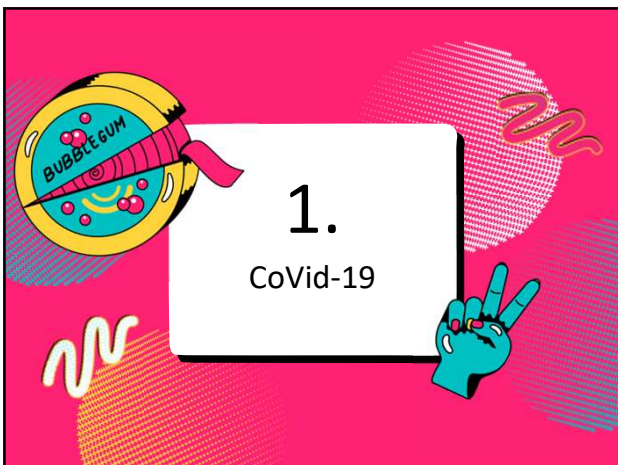
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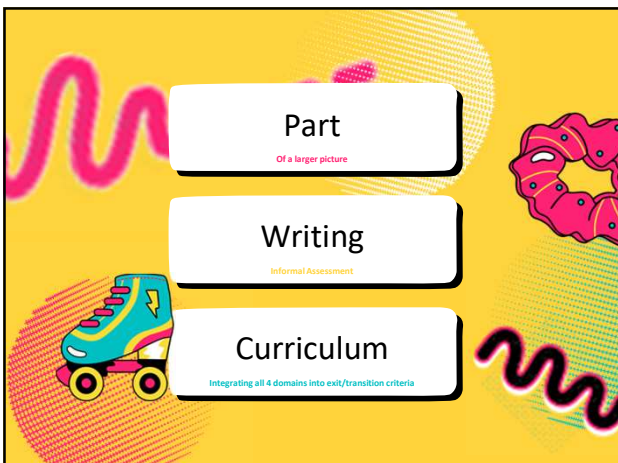
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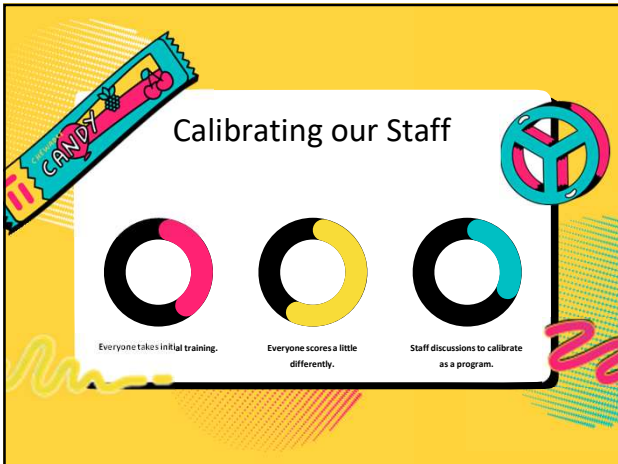
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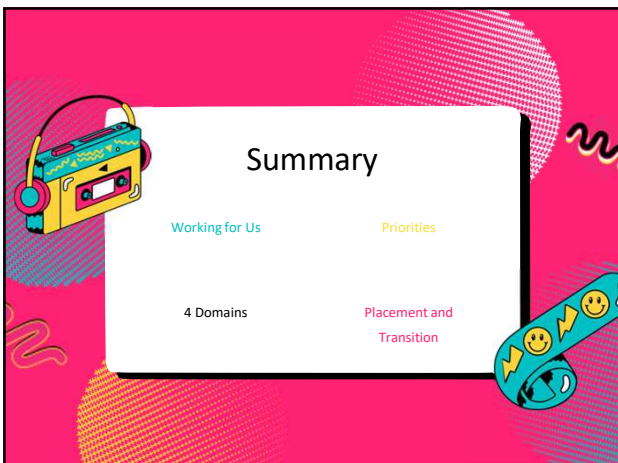
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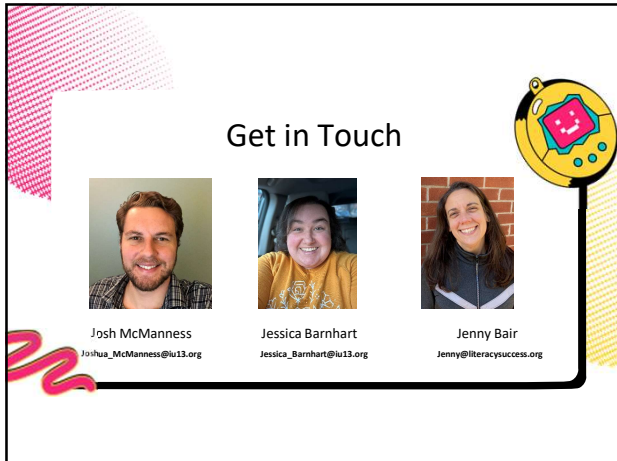
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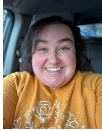
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Get in Touch



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Utilizing Listening Assessments and Practicing Active Skills with ELLs

Susan Clauser
sclauser@keystoneopp.org

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CASAS Life and Work Series

- ❖ Reading: Pre 27/28, 81/82A, 81AX/82AX, 83/84B, 185/186C, 187/188D
- ❖ Listening: 981/982A, 983/984B, 985/986C
- ❖ Administer both to students who attend our large group in-person registration
- ❖ Administer reading or listening to those who register remotely, depending on the focus of their goals

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Pros of Administering Both Assessments

- ❖ Better measures student skill gaps
- ❖ More aligned with student goals
- ❖ More precise level placement
- ❖ Provides more data for lesson planning
- ❖ Increases the probability of NRS level gains at posttesting
- ❖ Increases orientation time

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Cons

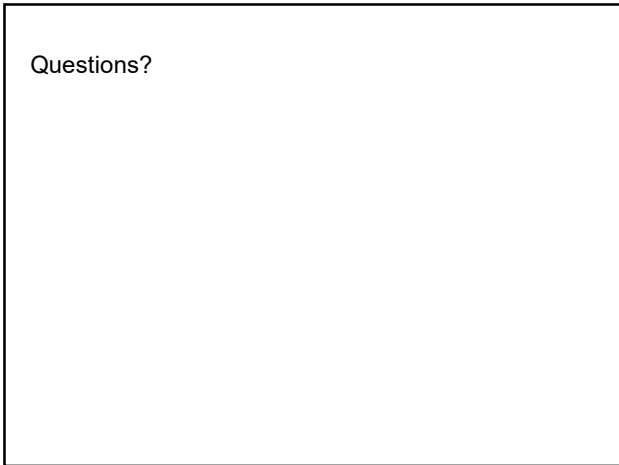
- ❖ Increases time needed for intake, orientation, and assessment
- ❖ Listening test is more difficult to administer in a large group setting
 - Need at least three rooms, CD players, CDs, and sometimes headphones to administer all listening forms on paper
 - Need computers and headphones for CBT

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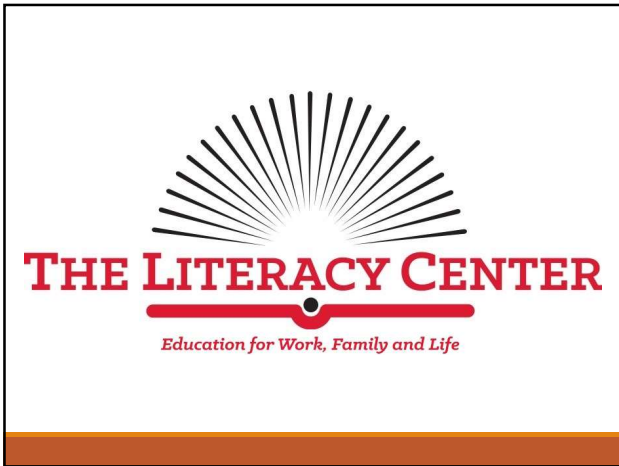
Addressing Active Skills in the Program

- ❖ Flag non-speakers or non-writers at intake, orientation, and assessment for one-to-one or small group tutoring
- ❖ Utilize aides in the classroom
- ❖ Consider adding a literacy level ESL class to the schedule
- ❖ Provide a balance of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in every lesson
- ❖ Break out rooms/group work for conversation and writing practice
- ❖ Add conversation classes to your class schedule

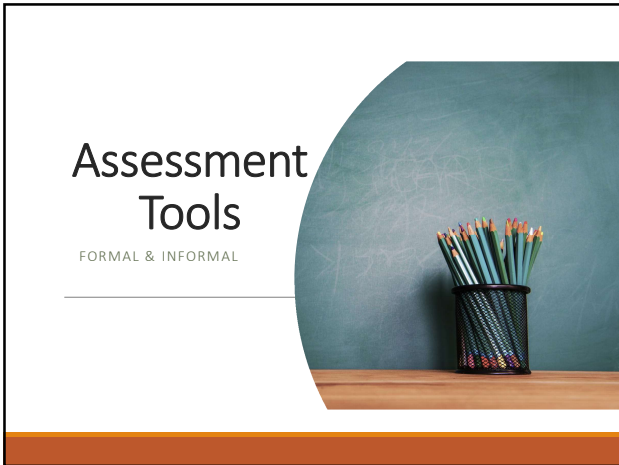
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Focus Points



- Importance of Pre-Assessing with More Than One Tool
- Testing Practices at The Literacy Center
 - Standardized: Listening & Reading - Receptive Skills
 - Informal: Speaking & Writing - Productive Skills
- Providing Opportunities for Students to Practice All Four Skills

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Importance of Pre-Assessing with More Than One Tool

Warm-Up

- Hungarian Lesson



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Válaszolj a kérdésekre!

1. Mióta él Judit az USA-ban?

A) 25 éve. B) 23 éve. C) 922

2. Hol él Judit?

A) Allentown-ban B) Whitehall-ban C) York-ban

3. Mi Judit ház száma?

A) 922 B) 610-578-3459 C) 25



Jó napot kívánok. Garger Judit vagyok. 25 éve élek az USA-ban egy kis városban Whitehall-ban. Címem: 922 Front utca. Telefon számom 610-578-3459 Két fiam van Márk és Alan. Egy angol oktató, non-profit irodában dolgozom 1999 óta.

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Ответьте на вопросы

Добрый день. Я Юдит Гаргер.
Я живу в США уже 25 лет в маленьком
городке Уайтхолл. Мой адрес: 922 Фронт
ул. Мой номер телефона 610-578-3459. У
меня двое сыновей, Марк и Алан. С 1999
года я работаю в некоммерческом офисе
по обучению английскому языку.



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Importance of Pre-Assessing with More Than One Tool

- Pre-testing learners in one skill area may give an inaccurate picture of the learner's initial functional level
- Because of cognates, learners might be able to score higher on the reading pretest
- Learners coming from countries with a non-Roman alphabet, might score very low on their reading, but their speaking and listening skills might be much higher.
- Pre-testing in all 4 skills would be ideal, but we know it is impossible. Pre-testing in 2 skill areas will give us a closer picture of learners' overall language skills



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TLC's Standardized Testing Procedures



- Two skill areas since 2007
 - CASAS, Life & Work Listening
 - CASAS, Life & Work Reading
- Format
 - Paper-Based
 - Remote

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TLC's Standardized Testing Procedures

Intake

Day 1: Paperwork, Orientation & Appraisal

Day 2: Pretest with Assessment Administrators

Pretesting

Requires preparation & planning

Remote Testing

Students who are unable to come in person



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Informal Speaking Assessment

Speaking Assessment

SPEAKING ASSESSMENT

Instructions:

- Engage the student in a friendly conversation before you begin.
- You can start by asking "What's your name?" (add scores)
- Go to the next set of questions and score the student's answers by placing a check mark (✓) in the appropriate numbered column.
- You may repeat each question once. *DO NOT* rephrase the question!

Questions	Scores		
	0 (No answer, or not appropriate)	1 (Minimal response, some key words)	2 (Adequate response, correct details)
1. Where are you from?			
2. Where do you live? (What part of ... city?) (Do you live in ...?)			
3. How long have you lived here? (In the USA?) (in ...?)			

OUTPUT



speaking



writing

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Informal Writing Assessment

Writing Assessment

- Rarely used, with low-literate students
- Based on the 1000 most frequently used words



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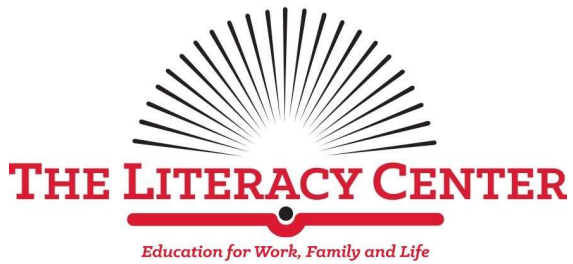
Informal Assessment Tools



All Four Skills Tested Regularly

- Unit Tests
Include listening, a culminating writing assignment, grammar & reading comprehension questions
- Mini Presentations
- Teacher-Created Activities

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Intake and Assessment

Tips for working with ESL Learners

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Intake and Informal Assessment

- One-to-one, small groups
- Blended approach, remote and in-person
- Intake Forms
 - E-data Form
 - Simplified Catholic Charities Intake Form

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Formal Assessment

- CASAS vs. BEST Plus 2.0
 - Location and Transportation
 - Weaker Skill Set
 - Classroom Make-up
 - Timing

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Assessment Prep in the Classroom

- CASAS
 - CASAS official practice tests
 - Literacy Minnesota lesson assessments
- BEST Plus 2.0
 - Dialogue Practice

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Questions?

○ Sara Beck, shbeck@cchbg.org

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Assessments

- Grantees allowed to purchase multiple assessments
 - Recommend purchasing computer-based over paper-based
- Gain on an ABE test can be EFL gain for student with ESL entry level and vice versa
 - Must show a gain on a pre/post test pair of the same test



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PD opportunity for ESL instructors

- Standards-in-Action Virtual Training: Cultivating a Language and Content Focus for English Learners
 - Open to individual teachers
 - National level: opportunity to work with teachers from other states
 - [Registration](#) for 2 upcoming sessions
 - Starting March 7, 2023
 - Starting May 2, 2023



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Contact/Mission

For more information on adult education, please visit PDE's website at www.education.pa.gov

The mission of the Department of Education is to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. Further, the Department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the commonwealth by ensuring that technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether children or adults.



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